

Buckhorn Manor (McClintic House)
East side of State Route 603, 1.5
miles south of McClintic Bridge
Bacova Vicinity
Bath County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-966

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. VA-966

BUCKHORN MANOR (McClintic House)

Location: East side of State Route 603, 1.5 miles south of McClintic Bridge, approximately 6 miles southwest of Bacova, Bacova Vicinity, Bath County, Virginia.

USGS Mountain Grove Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.594470.4207610.

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Present Use: Vacant; located in the Gathright Lake Project area, the waters of the lake will reach the foundation of the main house and inundate most of the outbuildings; there are plans to demolish the complex.

Significance: Buckhorn Manor, with its outbuildings, is a good example of the plantations that flourished in the Jackson River valley before the Civil War. The plantation buildings, three of which remain intact, are of interest architecturally as representative of pre-Civil War plantation buildings in a rural, remote region and agriculturally as a complex of buildings which formed a working nineteenth century farm unit. A log structure on the property, used as a plantation kitchen, reportedly was built in 1742 for protection from Indians. If this date is accurate, the structure is one of the earliest in the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: Buckhorn Manor was built circa 1830. The house and a separate brick wing were connected by a one-bay addition during the 1930s. Frame wings were added on the south (rear) elevation of the brick wing. The dates of the outbuildings are unknown. All but one date from before the Civil War. According to a 1930s WPA survey of Bath County, the log kitchen may have originally been a block house built in 1742 as protection from the Indians. A log dwelling, known as the housekeeping cabin, was built for a McClintic son and his wife after the Civil War, circa 1880s.
2. Architect: None known.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The property occupied by Buckhorn Manor was acquired by William McClintic (1717-1801) in 1774. Upon his death, it passed to his grandson, William McClintic III. William McClintic II died from wounds received during the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina before he could receive ownership. It was William McClintic III who built the house. The house remained in the McClintic family until the 1890s, when it was sold to Joseph T. Fudge. The land continued to be farmed until the 1950s. The house and outbuildings were owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1958 to 1972, when the United States Army Corps of Engineers assumed ownership.
4. Alterations and additions: The main house was connected to an adjacent one-story brick structure by a frame addition, painted to resemble brick, in the 1930s. Two frame additions were built on the rear of the brick wing.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The McClintics, and several other prominent families, like the Bolars and Rivercombes, gained control over most of the land in the Gathright region. Control was aided and reinforced by a series of intermarriages between the land-owning families. They built their houses in the valley on both sides of the Jackson River.

William McClintic III built Buckhorn Manor circa 1830 and developed the plantation. He farmed the fertile flood plain between the river and the house. His principal crops were rye, corn, and wheat, and on the hill above the river were apple orchards. He also kept numerous hogs and cattle for that region and time. By the time of his death in 1861, McClintic owned more than 2,000 acres of land in the valley.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: There are some photographs of Buckhorn Manor taken by Joseph L. Benthall on file at the Virginia State Library in Richmond. These photographs were taken in 1968, when the buildings were in better condition.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Book, Bath County Court House Records, 1793-1930.

McClintic Papers 1774-1900, Bath County Historical Society.

U.S. Census, Bath County, Virginia, 1810-1880.

There is a report on the Gathright Lake Project area, including Buckhorn Manor, compiled by Iroquois Research Institute for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, located in the Norfolk District Office.

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission has some information on Buckhorn Manor.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Morton, Oren. A Centennial History of Allegheny County, Virginia. Dayton, Virginia: R. K. Ruebush Company, 1923.

Morton, Oren. Annals of Bath County, Virginia. Staunton, Virginia: McClure and Company, 1917.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Buckhorn Manor is a good example of a rural plantation house dating from 1830 with Federal and Greek Revival details. Remnants of the complex of outbuildings which supported the plantation remain. There are two outbuildings, a stone springhouse and a log building used as a kitchen, which still stand. Two other log buildings, one built as a dwelling for a married son and the other of undetermined use, are partially standing. The foundations of a barn also remain. Remnants of at least one other outbuilding, believed to have been a still house, are hidden by dense vegetation.
2. Condition of fabric: The buildings have suffered from vandalism and deterioration. Parts of the house are in poor condition. The rear frame additions are collapsing and some of the bricks are falling away. Doors, windows, and interior woodwork have mostly been removed, and graffiti cover the walls. The extant outbuildings are collapsing and some have only foundations remaining. The Corps of Engineers has boarded the openings of the house, and there are plans to demolish the complex.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section of the house is 46'-2" (four-bay front) by 22'-3". The house is two-and-a-half stories with a partially exposed basement. A separate one-story brick building, which is 18'-2" (two bays) by 15'-6", was constructed close to the west side of the house. In the 1930s the two buildings were connected by a one-bay frame addition. Two small one-story frame additions with a side porch were built on the south (rear) elevation of the one-story brick wing.
2. Foundations: Irregularly coursed limestone under main house and brick wing; frame additions are elevated on log and stone piers.
3. Wall construction, finish: Walls of the main house are brick laid in Flemish bond. Walls of the original wing are also brick, but laid in common bond. All the chimneys are brick laid in common bond. The one-bay addition, built to connect the wing with the house, is frame with flush horizontal siding painted to simulate brick. The wings added on the rear elevation of the brick wing are frame covered with both horizontal and vertical siding.
4. Structural system, framing: The walls of the main house and original wing are load-bearing brick with brick interior walls. The pine roof rafters are lapped and pegged at the ridge. The first-floor joists, visible in the cellar, are unfinished logs adzed flat on top.
5. Porches: There is a one-story wooden porch across the north (front) elevation of the main house. The shed roof was supported by six square columns with a balustrade, but only four columns remain.
6. Chimneys: The main house has two brick exterior end chimneys with corbeled caps. The wing has one brick exterior end chimney and a smaller brick chimney on the south roof slope; both also have corbeled caps.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The door on the north (front) elevation of the main house had eight fluted panels and was surrounded by sidelights and a transom; the door has been removed. The door on the rear elevation had six fluted panels, but only two panels remain. Both doorways were originally framed by fluted moldings with corner blocks. There is a door to the cellar on the east elevation.

- b. Windows: Windows in the main house were nine-over-six-light double hung sash, and window openings were framed by fluted moldings with corner blocks. The windows have been removed and the openings boarded.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main house and wing have gable roofs with pieced tin roofing over wooden shingles. The rear frame wings have shed roofs.
- b. Cornice: The house and wing have molded brick cornices.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Cellar: There is a cellar under the main house. It has a dirt floor and exposed stone walls. The first-floor joists, of unfinished logs adzed flat on top, are exposed. The space is divided into two rooms by a central stone wall with a doorway connecting the spaces. Access to the cellar is through an exterior door on the east elevation; there are no interior stairs to the cellar.
 - b. First floor: The first floor has a central hall with one room of unequal size on either side. There is a door at each end of the hall to take advantage of breezes during the summer. The brick wing has one room used as a dining room. The frame additions house a kitchen and hallway.
 - c. Second floor: The second floor has a central hall with one room of unequal size on either side. The front part of the hall has been enclosed to form a small room.
2. Stairways: There is an open-well staircase in the hallway running from the first floor to the attic. The railing has been removed. The sides of the risers are decorated with hand-carved "buckhorn" brackets, after which the house was named, and reeded string. Some of the brackets have been removed.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster with paneled wainscoting. All four rooms, the hall, and the staircase in the main house and the single room in the brick wing have paneled wainscoting of yellow poplar with pine frame. Some of the wainscoting remains in place, some has been removed, but it is still in the house. There is a wooden medallion on the first-floor hall ceiling.

4. Doorways and doors: Doorway and window openings are surrounded by hand-carved fluted moldings with corner blocks. The last remaining interior door, recently removed, had six hand-carved fluted panels.
5. Heating: There is a fireplace on the outside end wall in each of the five major rooms. The mantels, which have been removed, were hand-carved, each in a different design. One mantel, recently removed, had a paneled frieze flanked by finials set on reeded posts.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house sits on a wooded hillside above the Jackson River. The surrounding area is mountainous and heavily wooded. The site of the Gathright Dam is about ten river miles below the house. The house is in the Gathright Lake Project area.
2. Outbuildings: Buckhorn Manor was at one time a plantation with a complex of outbuildings which included a barn, a springhouse, a kitchen with a weaving room above, a still house, a second house constructed for a married son and his family, and at least one other outbuilding of undetermined use.
 - a. Kitchen: Located behind the house, west of the springhouse, is a log building which was used as a kitchen. The walls are constructed of squared logs with V-notched corners up to the plate; the gable ends are covered with horizontal siding. Cement has replaced most of the original chinking. The foundation is randomly laid limestone. The building measures 18'-2" by 17'-10" and is two stories with a cellar partially exposed by the sloping site. A gable roof covers the structure; the roof rafters are exposed under the overhanging eaves. Pieced tin roofing has replaced the original covering. There is a large exterior end chimney of limestone on the south elevation. The entrance is located on the north gable end; the windows have been removed.

There is a full cellar under the building. Access to the cellar is through a doorway on the west elevation; the door has been removed. The cellar has exposed stone walls and a dirt floor. There is one room on each floor; the first floor served as the plantation kitchen and the second floor as a weaving room. The large kitchen fireplace has deteriorated, many of the stones have fallen

out of place. The first-story floor is rotting, but the joists are in good condition. The unfinished log joists for the first-story floor are visible in the cellar. The second-story joists protrude through the walls and are visible on the east and west elevations.

According to a 1930s WPA survey of Bath County, this log building was originally constructed as a block house in 1742 for protection from the Indians. If this date is accurate, this is one of the earliest structures in the area.

- b. Springhouse: The springhouse, located behind the house, is constructed of irregularly coursed limestone, 14'-5" by 14', one story with a gable roof. Access is through one door on the west elevation. There is a narrow window with wooden bars on each side of the other three elevations. There is one room with a trough along the east and south walls. The interior walls are plastered. The roof has partially collapsed and the east wall is badly cracked.
- c. Other outbuildings: There is another log building, of undetermined use, located behind the springhouse closer to the river. It appears to have been most recently used for storage. The building has a limestone foundation with a full cellar; the log walls have V-notched corners. There were several two-story frame additions on the south, east, and west sides. These additions and the roof have collapsed.

The stone foundations of a frame bank barn are still visible to the southeast of the house.

A log dwelling, known as the housekeeping cabin, was built for a married McClintic son and his wife. This structure was built most likely in the 1880s, considerably after the other outbuildings. The house is built of squared logs with V-notched corners on an irregularly coursed ashlar foundation. It is one-and-a-half stories with a gable roof and an exterior end chimney on the west elevation. The dwelling burned and partially collapsed after 1968. Parts of the walls remain intact, but the roof has collapsed and the interior is filled with rubble. This building is located west of the main house.

The plantation had a still house where the McClintics produced whiskey, which was noted for its fine quality. This structure was probably located approximately 300 yards to the west of the house by a large spring. The structure no longer stands and any remains are hidden by dense vegetation.

Prepared by Iroquois Research
Institute
1977

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Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Gathright Lake Project. The recording project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Buckhorn Manor was measured in May, 1978 by HABS architects Patrick M. Burkhardt, Michael D. Clark, Susan M. Dornbusch, and landscape architect Theodore S. Torpy. The drawings were completed in the HABS office in September, 1978 by Dornbusch, Torpy, architect Rudy Massengill, and student architects Gary D. Baker (The Catholic University of America) and Nancy E. Tennebaum (California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo). Iroquois Research Institute, under contract for the Corps, prepared the historical and architectural data in 1977. The data was edited and expanded in August, 1978 by Deborah Stephens Burns, an architectural historian in the HABS office. Photographs showing interior details before removal were taken by Grace Heffelfinger in 1973; the original negatives are in the collection of the Virginia State Library in Richmond. Additional photographs were taken in April, 1978 by Walter Smalling for HABS.